Attorney's Docket No.: 13452-002001 / PH-709US

Applicant: Ito et al. Serial No.: 09/451,666

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The method of claim 27, wherein the pin comprises at least one recessed 21.

tip.

The method for producing a biochip according to claim 26, wherein the 23. plate is substantially planar.

Please add the following new claims:

-24. (NEW) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a binding agent, wherein the binding agent is capable of immobilizing a probe to the biochip, and a probe;
 - (b) spotting the binding agent to a plurality of positions on the biochip; and
- (c) spotting a plurality of probes onto the positions spotted in step (b), wherein the binding agent is only provided on an area of the biochip where a probe is to be spotted, thereby producing a biochip domprising a plurality of spots comprising probes.
- 25. (NEW) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:
- (a) providing a mixture of a binding agent and a probe, wherein the binding agent is capable of immobilizing the probe to the biochip; and
- (b) spotting the mixture to a plurality of positions on the biochip; wherein the binding agent is only provided on an area of the biochip where a probe is to be spotted, thereby producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes.
- 26. (NEW) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plate comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:
 - (a) providing a plate;
- (b) providing a mixture of a binding agent and a probe, wherein the binding agent is capable of immobilizing the probe to the plate; and
- (c) spotting the mixture to a plurality of positions on the plate; the binding agent is only provided on an area of the biochip where a probe is to be spotted, thereby producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes.

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(NEW) The method of claim 24, claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the mixture, the probe or the binding agent is spotted with a pin.

- 28. (NEW) The method of claim 24, claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the mixture, the probe or the binding agent is spotted with a tube.
 - 29. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the tube is a capillary tube.
- 30. (NEW) The method of claim 27, wherein the pin comprises a tip comprising at least one recess.
- 31. (NEW) The method of claim 30, wherein the recess comprises concave shape.
- 32. (NEW) The method of claim 31, wherein the recess comprises at least one groove.
- 33. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the groove comprises a radially-shaped groove.
- the probe or the binding agent is suctioned by a pin and spotted on a plurality of positions on the biochip or the plate.
- 35. (NEW) The method of claim 24, claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the mixture, the probe or the binding agent is carried by a tip of a pin and spotted on a plurality of positions on the biochip or the plate.
- 36. (NEW) The method of claim 24, claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the mixture, the probe or the binding agent comprises a solution, and the solution is carried by surface tension by a tip of a pin and spotted on a plurality of positions on the biochip or the plate.--